THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Inter-Ministry controversy over drug price control.

4322. SHRIABANTROY:

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tussle between the Ministries of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Health and Family Welfare, on the issue of reducing price control on drugs continues, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 6th August, 2001;

(b) if so, whether Government have been adopting any formula in fixing the prices of essential life saving drugs;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether drug companies in the private sector would be controlled by Government, in so far as pricing is concerned; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) There is no tussle between the Ministries of Chemicals and Fertilizers and the Health and Family Welfare on the issue of reducing price control on drugs.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

(d) Prices notified or fixed by the Government are applicable to manufacturers irrespective of whether they are in the private sector or in the public sector.

Compensation amount of Bhopal gas tragedy

† 4323. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount received, so far, by Government as compensation from the Union Carbide Limited, for the Bhopal gas tragedy;

(b) the amount spent, item-wise, so far, out of the amount received;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether the money, out of the above compensation amount, still remains unspent;

(d) if so. where it is being utilized; and

(e) whether citizens of the wards left out to be declared as Bhopal gas affected areas are also proposed to be provided with relief allocations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) As per the order of Hon'ble Supreme court, the Union Carbide Corporation paid a sum of US $ 470 million to the Union of India as compensation in full settlement of all claims, rights and liabilities related to and arising out of Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster. As on 31-7-2001, Rs. 1489.51 crore have been disbursed as compensation to gas victims under the following categories:

(i) Injury—Rs. 1404.78 crore

(ii) Loss of livestock—Rs. 0.06 crore

(iii) Loss of property—Rs. 0.11 crore

(iv) Death—Rs. 84.56 crore

(c) and (d) According to available information, a sum of approximately Rs. 475.76 crore was lying with Reserve Bank of India in dollar component as on 18-7-2001. This money will be used to give compensation in pending claim cases.

(e) In case, the claimants from 20 unaffected wards establish through evidence that they are affected by the gas, then they are also entitled for compensation.

ILL effects of Genetic Engineering Technology for seeds

† 4324. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether PMAI has drawn Government's attention towards the neglect of health and environment hazards of the Genetic Modification Technology for seeds;

(b) if so. the ill effects of the process of genetic engineering submitted by the Association to Government; and

(c) what is the Government's reaction thereto ?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.